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Sheep munch weeds at Fort Missoula

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NEWS RELEASE

May 30, 2000

Contact: Marilyn Marler, UM/city noxious weed coordinator, (406) 243-5935.

SHEEP MUNCH WEEDS AT FORT MISSOULA

MISSOULA —

Though it may appear that sixty head of sheep are roaming wild at Fort Missoula, they actually are a closely monitored, key component of a noxious weed program.

Marilyn Marler, noxious weed coordinator for The University of Montana and Missoula, said the sheep are being used to eat knapweed and leafy spurge on Fort Missoula land. The sheep are part of a cooperative project between UM and Garden City Harvest. Use of the sheep was donated by a local rancher.

"We have been getting some confused calls from people about the sheep," Marler said. "They have been calling the College of Technology and even 911. But the sheep are supposed to be there."

She said the sheep are watched by a shepherd during the day and fenced in during the night. If they do a good job munching weeds at Fort Missoula, they may be used to reduce weeds on Mount Jumbo at a later date.

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CBS
Local
Sheep.rl